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TRVE

Intelligence sent from a Gentleman
of account.

CONCERNING,

The estate of the English forces
now in Fraunce, vnder the Conduet of the
Right Honorable the Earle of
Essex.

Particularly expressing what hath beene
doone since his departure from England,
vntill the second of September
last, 1591.



Printed for Thomas Nelson, and
re to be solde at his shop ouer against the
great South doore of Paules,
1591.



To the gentle Reader.



He vniust rumors secretlie dispersed, concerning the distressed estate of the english forces now in France, vnder the conduct of the right honourable the Earle of Essex, hath caused me to publish this short discourse, wherein is set forth nothing but that which is to bee iustified for truth, by those that were eye witnesses of the contents thereof.

And what soeuer is herein contained, be assured it is of truth, and published onely to satisfie the honest mindes of those that are desirous to know the truth and no more, of all such things, as hath hitherto passed since the departure of his honour forth of England.

Accept the same, gentle Reader, from him, who wisheth the welfare of thee, and them all, and so in curtesie leaueth thee to the reading of that which ensueth.

Fabian Iohnson.

A Letter sent out of France, particularly expressing the true estate of the English forces vnder the conduct of the right Honorable the Earle of Essex.



Y good cussen, I cannot but mule at the sundry vntrue reports which (as I heare) is bruted in England concerning the English forces now remaining in Fraunce: For controlement wherof according to your request, I sende you the truth of all that hath happened since our departure, to the end you may make other of your friends acquainted with the same.

Know therefore that after the right Honorable the Earle of Essex, had taken his leaue of her Maiesty then lying at Greenwich, he went from thence by water to Graues-end, where being landed he tooke horse to Douer, meane while the ships passed the lands end, and so came to Douer, wher his Honor soone after went aboard, who together with the whole fleete set sayls for Deepe, wher we arriued on munday being the seuenth day of August 1591.

At his Honors first landing, all the great ordinance on both sides the hauen (at Deepe) was discharged, and the Townes men stood (ready souldier like) with drums, phifes and Ensignes, and in

token of loue and ioy sounded their Trumpets, & in all curteous maner receiued him, who together with the Gouvernour of the sayd Towne, named Mounfier *de Chartres* marched into the Towne, where he was royally feasted and most honorably entertained.

After the Earle our Generall had taken order for the landing and placing of his souldiers, he remayned at Deepe about foure dayes space, and after went to *Arques*, which is about foure miles from thence, where he encamped and mustred vp his men, taking aduice of the saide Gouvernour what was best to be done.

Meane while that his Honor remained at *Arques*, hee had certaine intelligence brought him, that the Kings Maiesty was greatly busied about the taking of *Noyan*, and that by meanes thereof the King coulde not easelye departe thence, before he had receiued full possession of the sayde Towne, which was perfourmed, on the nineteenth of August last past.

The Honorable Earle of Essex our generall, vnderstanding of the Kings good succes, and hauing receiued certaine intelligence from his Maiestye, that he would meete with him at *Gisors*, set forward thither on the one and twenty of August, taking with him all his horse men, leauing his footmen still at *Arques*, where they continued vntill wedneseday, being the second of September last past, as heareafter is expressed.

On the 27. of August, about the number of 400. English foote men went from *Arques*, with two hundred

hundred and fifty horse men of Deepe, these marched forth at midnight towards the riuer of *Some* in *Picardy*, and went to a towne walled with mud. neare to Saint *Valeri*, holden by such as were neyther in obedience to the King, nor in league with the Leaguers. Into this towne they entred the next morning early, where they tooke the towne & about three hundred horse and wagons, which they conducted to *Arques*.

The Earle being come to *Gisors*, attended there for his Maiestie, who came the next day, and receiued the Earle most louingly, to whom he gaue so great entertainment, as best beseemed so honorable a personage. And first greatly thanking the Queenes Maicstie of England, for her highnesse most gracious and louing kindnes towards him, and then gaue thanks vnto the Earle for his great curtesie, forwardnes, and paines taking, in attempting to hazard his owne person in so tedious a iourney.

After that the king had honorably entertained the Earle, according to the manner and custom of this country, he departed towards the Germaine Armie, consisting of eighteene thousand both of horse and foot, who then staide about *Champaigne* for the comming of his Maiestie. But the Earle of *Essex* accompanied with the Lord Marshall *Biron*, departed from thence to *Pont-de-larche*, where hee yet remaineth.

This Towne of *Pont-de-larche* standeth about ten mile from *Roan*, in like sorte as *Kingstone* standeth from *London*, which Towne is holden for the

King, and hath a bridge ouer it as *Kingstone* hath, hauing a Castle on the other side thereof, standing as her Maiesties Manor of *Hampton Court*, which together doth now keepe the riuer, and doth cutte off all the prouision that can goe to *Roan* by water, by reason that the vessels of prouision sent by water, must first passe vnder that bridge, before it can come to *Roan*.

The aforesaid bootie came in verie good time, by reason they greatly wanted horses and wagons for the carriage of their prouision, which soone after stood them in great stead, when the whole Armie remooued from *Arx*, which was on Wednesday being the first of September last, on which day the armie arose, and laded their ordinance, and so departed, marching towards the place where the Generall staide, being accompanied with Sir *Thomas Leighton* knight, who is lately landed at *Deepe* with great prouisiō of ordinance. To which place also there came ordinance from *Amsterdam*, and sundrie other places, so that shortlie it is likely that there will be some notable seruice performed against *Roan*, when the kinges forces, consisting of French men, English men, and Germanes, doe meete and ioine altogether, which will bee forthwith God willing.

God bee blessed for it, there is plentie of good victuals in the countrie, whereof we want not, and the same sold at a reasonable rate. A man may buie a good quarter of mutton for two shillings: a capon for eighteene pence, and twentie pence the best. Of bread, butter, cheesc, and fish there is plentie:

tic: Salt fishe is there verie good cheape. A man maye buye a good Salt fish for three halfe pence, which will serue foure men to their dinners: and of this and such like prouision, the countrie doth bring in great abundance.

And wheras the report runneth, and hath been spred almost euer since my Lords departure, that fundry Captaines hath beene lately drowned through their owne wilfull negligence, and that there hath also many English men died out of the English Army since their comming ouer, by reason of pestilent sicknesse which hath risen amonge them: all this God be thanked is meere false, for neyther hath there any Captaines at all bin drowned, nor yet any such extreame sickenes happened among our Army as is reported. For of certainty there hath not aboue ten or twelue persons dyed by sicknesse at the moste of that great multitude, and the most part of those that haue so died (or are now sicke) is such as being riotously giuen, haue spent and consumed their money at dice, or in dronkennes, and such like vnmeet exercises, who, when they want money, run and feede on greene fruit, whereof there is great store, by which means some doe surfet and fall sicke, to the great indaungering of their owne liues.

Thus my good kinsman, I haue discouered vnto you the true newes of all that hath happened since our departure from England. Other newes I haue not as yet to send you, but so soone as anye thing is perfourmed, you shall receiue certain intelligence.

This

This one thing I thought good to acquaint you withall, whereof I know England will be right ioyful to heare: namely, that the French king hath by Act of Parliament banished the Pope from hauing any rule, gouernement, or authoritie within the dominion of Fraunce: and hath published Edicts in print concerning the same, throughout all his kingdome: yea he hath also caused his Bulls openly to be burned before the gates of al his greatest Townes and places, to the great amazement of those that are the chiefest pillars of the Romish Sinagogue. And thus with my hartly commendations to all our friends & well willers in England,

I committe you to the protection of the Almighty, who prosper you for euer more.

From Arques this 2. of September.

1591.

Your louing friend and nephew.
Fabian Johnson.

Fabian Johnson

